



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
OFFICE OF MEDIA RELATIONS
245 MCKEE ROAD
DOVER, DELAWARE 19904
Telephone: (302) 739-5601
Fax: (302) 739-8220

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Contact: John R. Painter
E-mail: john.painter@state.de.us
Office: 302.739.5601 ext. 232
Cell Phone: 302.379.4048
DOC website: <http://doc.delaware.gov/>

PRESS RELEASE

DOC to Transition Webb Facility from Prison to Work Release Center *Public Meeting on Sept. 20 and Department Website to Help Answer Questions*

The Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) announces that it will transition the John L. Webb Correctional Facility, located in the Prices Corner area of Wilmington, into a Community Corrections Work Release and Treatment Center. The transition will alleviate a shortage of work release beds in New Castle County, greatly assisting offenders with their re-entry back into the community.

"The Department of Correction remains committed to public safety," said DOC Commissioner Carl Danberg. "This change in mission for the Webb correctional facility will increase our ability to provide a period of transition for offenders leaving our prisons, increasing their likelihood of success and, thereby, increasing public safety."

The transition, which is expected to take about three months, will change the population and purpose of the facility. Webb's population will switch from Level V offenders to Level IV offenders who are on schedule to be released back into the community, usually within a six-month period. The purpose of Webb will switch from being a prison facility to one of work release and treatment. While in work release, offenders typically hold jobs with private employers outside the facility, participate in substance abuse and alcohol treatment and partake in educational programs.

The primary reason to transition Webb into a Level IV work release center is to address a shortage of work release beds in New Castle County. This shortage means New Castle County offenders aren't receiving the full benefit of participating in a work release program, and this lack of supported and supervised re-entry increases the likelihood of recidivism. Offenders who serve work release in the county where they will return to live have more successful re-entry experiences because they are able to establish employment, access community support systems and find supportive housing during their time in work release.

To aid the public in their understanding of the transition, the DOC will hold a public meeting and has also created an informational page on its website - <http://doc.delaware.gov/>. The public meeting to receive and hear comments will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 20, at the Mill Creek Fire Hall on Kirkwood Highway in Wilmington.